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The following were elected officers of the Medical Society, State of California, at the forty-eighth annual meeting held at Santa Barbara, April, 1919:

President, H. A. L. Ryfkogel, San Francisco; President-elect, J. C. Yates, San Diego; Secretary, S. T. Pope, San Francisco; 1st Vice-President, H. G. Brainerd, Los Angeles; 2d Vice-President, Dudley A. Smith, Oakland; Councilors, 2d District—W. H. Kiger, Los Angeles, 1922; 6th District—C. G. Kenyon, San Francisco, 1922; 8th District—Jas. H. Parkinson, Sacramento, 1922; Councilor-at-Large, O. D. Hamlin, 1922.

At the 109th meeting of the Council, held the morning following the second session of the House of Delegates, Dr. C. G. Kenyon of San Francisco was unanimously made chairman of that body; Dr. John H. Graves of San Francisco was appointed by the Council to fill the unexpired term of H. A. L. Ryfkogel, Councilor-at-Large, 1921, San Francisco, made vacant by his becoming President. Dr. C. Van Zwahlenburg of Riverside, in the same way, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of J. C. Yates, Councilor-at-Large, 1920, San Diego, made vacant by his becoming President-elect. Dr. A. C. Reed was duly appointed Editor of the CALIFORNIA STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE; Celestine J. Sullivan, Managing Editor.

FROM THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.

At the close of one of the most successful sessions of the Medical Society of the State of California, I want to express my appreciation for the efforts put forth by the rank and file of its members as well as to publicly express my appreciation of the efforts of its officers.

The spirit of co-operation and helpful support was evident throughout the session—no obstructive efforts were noted anywhere. This is a great personal satisfaction and should be a matter of pride to the Society.

The key-note points in the meetings were Co-operation, Business Efficiency, and Publicity. They mark the "new era" upon which we are entering.

The scientific standard was maintained at a very high level and with the several new features developed at the meeting, I feel that the session will stand as a striking mile-stone in the history of the Society.

Thanking you all for courtesies to me personally,

Very sincerely,
C. VAN ZWALENBURG.

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING.

It is indeed a misfortune that every doctor in the State of California could not have attended the forty-eighth session of the State Medical Society at Santa Barbara, April 15, 16, and 17. Full reports and minutes of the House of Delegates will appear in the June issue of the Journal. Early publication of the papers from this session will be favored by increase in the size of the Journal for the ensuing three months. These papers are the property of the State Medical Society and should be immediately sent to the Journal office. Most of them have been received. Their publication elsewhere is unlawful without permission from the Journal.

With 425 members registered, and an additional 200 guests, relatives and friends, it is no exaggeration to say that this was the most enthusiastic and successful annual meeting ever held in this State. Many things conspired together most happily to aid this good result. The Hotel Belvedere proved a worthy and convenient place of meeting, and the hotel management inspired in every one of its guests a sense of comfort and fellowship which too often are lacking at such conventions. Weather was superb. Social events were plentiful and entertaining. Golf, swimming, riding, all were enjoyed. An exhibition of archery by Drs. Wolf and Pope proved most novel. An evening at the Santa Barbara Athletic Club was more than repaid in fun and worth-while boxing matches.

Those who did not go, certainly missed a rare occasion. Fun and work were intermingled. Har-

monious, constructive action was the key-note, and this note was struck both by the retiring and the incoming presidents. If any word of criticism is possible, it is of the too common practice of electing men as delegates who cannot attend and who do not appreciate the important functions of the House of Delegates. The new sense of united strength and realization of the part medicine is to play in the next decade, were great features.

LEAGUE LUNCHEON.

Probably no other single feature of the State Society meeting at Santa Barbara attracted so much attention beforehand, so large an attendance at the time, and so universally favorable comment as the luncheon given by the League for the Conservation of Public Health on April 16 at the Hotel Belvedere. The Moorish room was crowded to capacity and two hundred persons additional were unable to gain entrance. The luncheon plainly showed that the medical profession is awake to its public health obligations and that it has adopted the League as a medium for wise guidance and education in public health matters.

The key-note of the impression made on the layman was voiced by Hon. P. H. McCarthy, president of the State Building Trades Council of California, who, in an eloquent and ringing address on "Labor's Contribution to Health Conservation," stated that he had felt for years that he knew and thoroughly understood the doctor. This belief was completely shattered by what he heard and saw at the League luncheon. He found that doctors had public spirit, were co-operative, and were banded together in a League for the Conservation of Public Health in every sense of the word. In such a magnificent program, they had the fullest and most sympathetic support from labor. In opening his address, Mr. McCarthy said "On behalf of the mechanics, artisans and laborers affiliated with the State Building Trades Council of California I am particularly glad to be able to extend fraternal greetings to this League for the Conservation of Public Health."

Hon. Wm. A. Beasley, president of the California State Conference of Social Agencies, dwelt on the strategic position of the physician in social welfare work and the good work of the League already accomplished as well as coming. The purposes, and mission of the League were eloquently described by Drs. Graves, James Franklin Smith and Dudley Smith. In a keen and masterly address, Mr. Hartley Peart, general counsel for the League as well as for the State Medical Society, discussed the rights of the people in regard to public health laws. This address should be studied by every physician. Mr. Celestine J. Sullivan, executive secretary of the League, proclaimed the need and usefulness of publicity as the physician's strongest weapon in a campaign for public health. He showed how the right use of this powerful agency is a duty that must not be neglected. The State Medical Society is to be congratulated on having the advantage of Mr. Sullivan's service on the Journal staff, and the officers of the League for the Conservation of Public Health were far-

sighted and fortunate in securing him as the League's full-time executive secretary.

It is unnecessary to remind the physicians of California that as they will eventually join the League, they had better do it now and follow the lead of the majority. Its function is of the utmost importance to the medical profession and the public alike. To paraphrase a quotation by Mr. McCarthy at the League luncheon, "A duty deferred, is a duty denied." Join at once.

HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND STANDARDIZATION.

There is no argument among well-trained physicians and surgeons as to the desirability and necessity of improving and standardizing hospital service. Widespread and equally widely recognized abuses have grown with the growth of our present hospital system, and too often seem an integral part of that system. If the hospital as a social institution, is to exist and develop, these abuses must be corrected. That they will be corrected as the medical profession awakes to the situation, goes without saying.

Standardization and improvement of hospitals must be based on and take full cognizance of certain fundamental propositions whose importance and truth are universally admitted. Similar standards are not applicable to commercial, industrial, university, teaching, charitable, private, metropolitan and rural hospitals. Standards that are applicable and efficient must consist of principles of policy which can admit of individual application to the varying needs and functions of different types of hospitals.

All hospitals have three functions which must be served to their fullest capacity if the name hospital is not to become a reproach. First and above all, and including the other two, the hospital must guarantee the best available service of scientific medicine for the patient. The patient's interest must be paramount. Second, the hospital must serve to improve and stimulate the medical profession, to the end that the profession may render still better service to the patient. Third, the hospital must utilize its strategic opportunity, which here is an obligation, as a health educational center, which again is decidedly for the interest of every patient, actual and presumptive.

Insofar as any hospital falls short of measuring up to these three standards, so far as in it lies, just so far does it need improvement and standardization. Any hospital which does not incorporate these three standards in its avowed and actual policy, cannot cease to exist too quickly for the benefit of the public and the medical profession.

Of course there are certain details, varying with the hospital, which are necessary in order to realize these aims. Proper equipment, case records, efficient staff organization, etc., are requisite. It must be remembered that there is a place and a definite function for the small hospital, both rural and urban. Just as the medical profession finds its common center of education, improvement, professional comradeship and service, and